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## Senate

The Senate met at 12:03 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, as the snow falls on Capitol Hill, we thank You for being our shelter in the time of storm.

Lord, we live in challenging times that require more than human solutions for our problems. In the midst of these days, help our lawmakers to find in You a sure place to stand and a strong support they can absolutely trust. Lord, give them such faith in You that they will seek and follow Your guidance, living lives that honor Your Name. Rule in their hearts as they deliberate so that Your higher wisdom will prevail.

And Lord, we thank You for the legacies of former Senators Johnny Isakson and Harry Reid.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 3, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SECOND SESSION OF THE 117TH CONGRESS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I had hoped to be opening this new session as President pro tempore, but I couldn't imagine anybody who is better suited to be the Acting President pro tempore than the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin, and I thank her for being here.

Apparently, to a number of the groups around this area, it comes as a surprise that it was snowing and the snow could be slippery and probably

they should have gotten some plows out. Maybe now they will. If not, we can hope for several days of warm sunshine, which is the best snow remover down here.

The distinguished Presiding Officer is well aware of what snow is like in her State, as I am in the State of Vermont, and we usually go out and clear the roads. But I appreciate those few who are out there doing it. I have seen sidewalk plows and other things and some road plows, and I applaud those who are doing that because it is not an easy job. And I realize, coming from the State of Vermont where we are used to snow, we get used to getting rid of it.

I know the Senate is thinking of going out in 1 or 2 minutes. I will speak later this week about the anniversary of January 6, and I will state this very, very seriously: I am beginning my 48th year here, and I have never seen such a total abuse of our democracy, not in the 48 years I have been here. I have cast 17,000 votes, and I cast them with the idea of preserving our democracy.

The people who stormed the Capitol had no sense of what a democracy is, had no sense of the importance of the Senate and the House of Representatives. They had no sense of the importance of having both political parties protecting our Constitution and our country. It was a disgraceful time I hope never to be repeated.

I will also speak later about my dear and close friend Harry Reid of Nevada, who left us in the past few days. Harry and I ran the same year. I was in the Senate, and we campaigned together when he ran. I was thrilled to be re-elected and thrilled that he was elected, and I felt so honored to be able to vote for him as our leader, both majority leader and minority leader. He was a good man. He came from a small, rural town, as did I. He believed in the U.S. Senate. I think of his memory and the memories of others who served in both parties who saw the loss of Bob Dole, another one who believed in the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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